

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully solicited.

Claims 16-30 have again been newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over German patent publication 10105200 which corresponds to the U.S. patent publication to Balduin et al. DE '200 will therefore hereinafter be referred to as Balduin et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 16 recites a step of positioning a transfer former to vertically overlie a final bending former in a form of a frame with a concave forming surface, the outside dimensions of the transfer former being smaller than those of the area enclosed by the concave final bending former. Claim 25 recites a final bending former with a concave forming surface, whose perimeter is greater than the perimeter of the transfer former, and to which the glass sheets are transferred from the transfer former.

As part of this rejection, the Office Action stated that Balduin et al shows that the glass is moved from a “transfer former” 5 to a “final bending former” 7, in which case the “transfer former” 5 of Balduin et al is positioned to vertically overlie the “final bending former” 7, the outside dimensions of the “transfer former” 5 being smaller than those of the area enclosed by the “final bending former” 7.

Applicants had previously pointed out that element 5 of Balduin et al is described therein as a bending mold, and that element 7 of Balduin et al is described as a “transport device,” not a bending former. Moreover, paragraph [0050] of Balduin et al explicitly states that “further unintended deformation of the edge [of the glass sheets] is prevented” during the transfer step on the transport device 7.

Thus, the Office Action had mischaracterized the teachings of this reference; there is no evidence that the transport device 7 of Balduin et al is a final bending former, or that Balduin et al teaches: the feature of Claim 16 of positioning a transfer former to vertically

overlie a final bending former in a form of a frame with a concave forming surface, the outside dimensions of the transfer former being smaller than those of the area enclosed by the concave final bending former; or the feature of Claim 25 of a final bending former with a concave forming surface, whose perimeter is greater than the perimeter of the transfer former, and to which the glass sheets are transferred from the transfer former.

Nonetheless, the outstanding Office Action has justified the renewed rejection based on Balduin et al because: “it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that a softened hot glass sheet placed on the final bending frame [presumably, the transport device 7 of Balduin et al] would continue to sag until cooled and solidified. Therefore, concave frame 7 can be considered a bending frame, because the softened glass would continue bending until cooled.” See paragraph 3. It is respectfully submitted that neither the premise nor conclusion identified above is supportable, for reasons as follows:

“[I]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that a softened hot glass sheet placed on the final bending frame would continue to sag until cooled and solidified.”

Not only would such sagging *not* be inherent or obvious in Balduin et al, Balduin et al *teaches against* a transport device 7 that would permit such sagging. A softened hot glass sheet placed on the transport device 7 of Balduin et al would “continue to sag” only if the frame of the transport device 7 had a shape different from that of the bending mold 5 in a way to permit further sagging. However, the transport device 7 in fact desirably “forms a continuous extension of the bending face of the ... bending mold 5” (sentence bridging pp. 4-5). Therefore, the glass sheets already have the shape of the transport device when they are transferred thereto, and cannot sag further. This is confirmed by the additional description in

Balduin et al that “further unintended deformation of the edge is prevented” during transfer on the transport device 7.

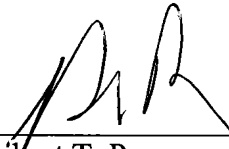
“Therefore, concave frame 7 can be considered a bending frame, because the softened glass would continue bending until cooled.”

As explained above, glass sheets would not be bent on the transport device 7 of Balduin et al since it has the same shape as the bending mold 5 and no “further unintended deformation” will occur during transport thereon. Therefore, there is no evidence to support the conclusion that the transport device can be considered a bending frame, and the outstanding rejection based on Balduin et al is not supportable.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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